



ST. VRAIN AND LEFT HAND WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
9595 Nelson Road, Suite 203 • Longmont, CO 80501 • 303-772-4060 • www.svlhwcd.org

November 3, 2017

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Stream Management Plan - CWCB Grant Application

Dear Chris,

On behalf of the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (“District”) Board of Directors and the District’s many partners, I am pleased to submit this application for the Colorado Water Conservation Board (“CWCB”) Colorado Watershed Restoration Program – Stream Management Plan (“SMP”) Grant.

As you know, Colorado’s Water Plan (“CWP”) sets a measurable objective to cover 80 percent of the locally prioritized lists of rivers with stream management plans. CWP used the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (“BIP”) to help inform this measurable objective. The BIP studied a reach of St. Vrain Creek for environmental and recreational opportunities and concluded streamflows may be present to achieve environmental and recreational outcomes. However, the BIP further concluded further analysis and assessment are necessary to determine specifics.

Following the flood recovery projects, the BIP, and in response to requests for leadership, the District convened stakeholder meetings over two months to obtain feedback on: 1.) interest in pursuing a SMP, and 2.) if the District should take the lead on applying for the grant. Through this up front collaboration many agreed the District should have a leadership role and this grant could serve as an opportunity to transition our focus from flood recovery to water use strategies that benefit river health.

The overall goal of this SMP is to collaboratively identify projects and management strategies in both St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks that transition stakeholders from flood recovery to stream health projects that improve environmental conditions in the river while also meeting water users’ current and future needs and are aligned with private property rights, public land and resource management plans, and the prior appropriation system.

The District will lead the development of a SMP that will take place in two phases over approximately five years. Phase 1 of our SMP is expected to cost \$300,000. The \$150,000 match is expected to be nearly 100% cash, and already the District has secured firm commitments for most of the match.

This is an exciting opportunity for our community and I trust the CWCB is eager to share in the enthusiasm by leveraging the excellent work and investments already made by the State of Colorado and others.

Thank you for considering this request and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sean T. Cronin
Executive Director

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1. PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Project Title: St. Vrain & Left Hand Stream Management Plan

Project Location: South St. Vrain Creek, Middle St. Vrain Creek, North St. Vrain Creek, and the main stem of St. Vrain Creek to the confluence of the South Platte River, also including the tributary of Left Hand Creek upstream and including its tributaries James Creek and Little James Creek. (See Attachment A)

Grant Type: Watershed Restoration Program: Stream Management Planning

Grant Request: \$150,000

Cash Match Funding: \$57,500

WSRF Grant Match: \$50,000 (Pending Approval)

In-Kind Match Funding: \$7,000

Cash Match Funding: \$35,500 (Request and Approval Necessary)

Project Sponsor: St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District

Contact: Sean Cronin, Executive Director, 303-772-4060, sean.cronin@svlhwcd.org

Project description:

The St. Vrain Creek watershed (which includes Left Hand Creek) is critical to maintaining the health, biodiversity, character, and economy of communities within the region, including Lyons and Longmont. The creek is home to a diverse population of native fish, receives Colorado River transmountain water, hosts one of the country's largest outdoor games, has its headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Indian Peaks Wilderness, and its confluence in a county that is the largest agricultural economic producing county in Colorado. Further, the watershed has a diverse array of stakeholders that use and derive value from the waters including agricultural users, domestic water providers, and recreational users.

Colorado's Water Plan (CWP) sets a measurable objective to cover 80 percent of the locally prioritized lists of rivers with stream management plans. CWP used the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) to help inform this measurable objective. The South Platte BIP studied a reach of St. Vrain Creek for environmental and recreational opportunities and concluded streamflows may be present to achieve environmental and recreational outcomes. However, the BIP further concluded "studies that relate the channel form and function to the streamflows can make assessment of flows in the area more robust". Moreover the BIP further states, in recognition of the significant post-flood stream restoration activities "assessments should be made regarding the requirements of aquatic and riparian ecosystems in the area...".

The BIP also concluded for the St. Vrain that "streamflows necessary for recreational needs should be assessed". Opportunities for flow improvements may be available. For example, the BIP referenced the St. Vrain as one of two tributaries to the South Platte River that have the largest annual potential for water availability, furthermore the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (District) owns a relatively senior water right, not currently in use, decreed for uses that include environmental and recreation.

With such a wide range of uses and intense focus of study, the St. Vrain poses an excellent opportunity to balance river health with water users' needs through completion of a stream management plan (SMP).

The overall goal of the SMP is to collaboratively identify projects and management strategies in both St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks that transition stakeholders from flood recovery to stream health projects that improve environmental conditions in the river while also meeting water users' current and future needs and are aligned with private property rights, public land and resource management plans, and the prior appropriation system. The District will lead the development of a SMP that will take place in two phases over approximately five years.

2. BACKGROUND & STATEMENT OF NEED

2.1. Basin Background

The St. Vrain Creek watershed (which includes Left Hand Creek) is critical to maintaining the health, biodiversity, character, and economy of communities within the region, including Lyons and Longmont. The creek is home to a diverse population of native fish, receives Colorado River transmountain water, hosts one of the country's largest outdoor games, has its headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Indian Peaks Wilderness, and its confluence in a county that is the largest agricultural economic producing county in Colorado. With such a wide range of uses and an intense focus of study, the St. Vrain poses an excellent opportunity to balance river health with water users' needs through completion of a stream management plan.

2.2. Project Need

With few exceptions, the St. Vrain Creek watershed (which includes Left Hand Creek) has historically been managed without a collective vision to maximize the river's use while also balancing its health. The September 2013 flood brought about a reenergized and expansive era of collaboration along with hundreds of millions of dollars for stream restoration. The collaborative flood recovery created a greater level of trust and partnership amongst water users, and many now want to transition to discussions of water management activities that can maximize post-flood projects to further benefit environmental, recreational, agricultural and domestic uses. A SMP appears to many stakeholders as a means to facilitate this transition.

Colorado's Water Plan sets a measurable objective to cover 80 percent of the locally prioritized lists of rivers with stream management plans. Colorado's Water Plan used the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) to help inform this measurable objective. The South Platte BIP studied a reach of St. Vrain Creek for environmental and recreational opportunities and concluded streamflows may be present to achieve environmental and recreational outcomes. However, the BIP further concluded that significant additional flow information is necessary, that stream channel and fish passage modifications should be further analyzed, and voluntary operational flow agreements, such as those previously operated by the St. Vrain Corridor Committee, should be explored.

Following flood recovery projects, BIP completion, and in response to requests for leadership, the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District convened stakeholder meetings over two months to obtain feedback on: 1.) interest in pursuing a Stream Management Plan, and 2.) if the District should take the lead on applying for the grant. Through these face to face meetings, as well as one-on-one interviews conducted with the help of River Network, stakeholders agreed the District should have a leadership role and this grant could serve as an opportunity to transition our focus from flood recovery to water use strategies that benefit river health.

3. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. Project Goal

The overall goal of the Project is to collaboratively identify projects and management strategies in both St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks from the headwaters to the confluence of the South Platte River that transition stakeholders from flood recovery to stream health projects that improve environmental conditions in the river while also meeting water users' current and future needs and are aligned with private property rights, public land and resource management plans, and the prior appropriation system.

3.2. Objectives

The District proposes to develop the Project in two phases over approximately five years. The overall objectives and schedule for each phase is described below.

Phase 1 – 2018-2019

- Objective 1: Develop support from stakeholders and the community at large for projects and management options that improve stream health and water availability for agricultural, municipal and recreational users
- Objective 2: Compile existing databases, reports, studies, and analyses of environmental, recreational, municipal, and agricultural water uses within the Study Area

- Objective 3 - Characterize the future water needs of agricultural, environmental, recreational, municipal and industrial users in the Study Area, including shortages and infrastructure needs
- Objective 4 – Assess river functional health within the Study Area and inventory stressors that are challenging or degrading it
- Objective 5 – Compile results from Objectives 1 – 4 and develop an on-line interactive report that communicates those results and makes recommendations for proceeding to Phase 2

Phase 2 – 2019 - 2022

- Objective 1 – Collect additional data on priority reaches as identified in Phase 1
- Objective 2 – Work with stakeholders to select specific management objectives for the priority reaches and describe measurable goals.
- Objective 3 - Quantify projects or management options such as ranges of numeric flow recommendations to support environmental and recreational values that meet water users’ needs as identified in Phase 1
- Objective 4 – Identify constraints and opportunities that may limit or assist meeting project goals
- Objective 5 - Revise the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plans to reflect the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders for project implementation.

4. GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE AND EXISTING INFORMATION

4.1. Geographic Scope

This project will encompass South St. Vrain Creek, Middle St. Vrain Creek, North St. Vrain Creek, and the main stem of St. Vrain Creek to the confluence of the South Platte River, also including the tributary of Left Hand Creek upstream and including its tributaries James Creek and Little James Creek. See Attachment A for project maps.

4.2. Existing Information

The St. Vrain Creek Watershed has several natural and ecological resources which provide distinct challenges and opportunities. As an example, a 2010 Colorado Parks and Wildlife inventory found that St. Vrain Creek outranks all other South Platte tributaries in the number of native fish species at 17, with 3 listed as Colorado species of concern. Though the St. Vrain hosts the largest diversity, the number of species has declined and many believe altered habitat, flow regime, and stream fragmentation are possible reasons.

Following the September 2013 flood, stream restoration activities improved habitat and many diversions were repaired with the addition of boat and fish passage to allow for greater stream connectivity. However, flow was not specifically addressed and future approaches, if any, to address flow needs will be piecemeal and not part of a comprehensive effort. According to the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, which focused on a section of the St. Vrain to serve as an example for assessing environmental and recreational protections, additional “studies that relate the channel form and function to the streamflows can make assessment of flows in the area more robust”. Moreover, in recognition of the significant post-flood stream restoration activities, the BIP also recommends “assessments should be made regarding the requirements of aquatic and riparian ecosystems in the area...” and “streamflows necessary for recreational needs should be assessed”.

As shown above, the waters of St. Vrain watershed (which includes Left Hand Creek) have been studied extensively over the past 20 years. Studies from Colorado State University, University of Colorado, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, City of Longmont, Town of Lyons, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the most recent flood master plans all provide a foundation to maximize the grant funding. A comprehensive list of the studies can be found in Attachment B. If funded, these studies’ findings will be utilized and built upon to further the objectives of the SMP and the efforts will be made to address those information gaps to the greatest extent feasible.

5. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

5.1. Project Lead and Stakeholders

The St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District will serve as both the fiscal agent and lead entity for this Stream Management Plan. The District will work closely and collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders and

engage these stakeholders at various levels throughout the process. When gathering feedback on whether or not to undertake a Stream Management Plan, the District convened the following for input:

- American Whitewater
- Boulder County
- City of Longmont
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (unable to attend due to time constraints)
- Colorado Trout Unlimited
- Division Engineers Office (not able to attend due to time constraints)
- Highland Ditch Company (unable to attend due to time constraints)
- Left Hand Ditch Company
- Left Hand Water District
- Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group
- St. Vrain Creek Coalition
- Town of Lyons
- US Forest Service

If the grant is awarded it is expected the list above will be expanded to include other experts, the general public and other stakeholder groups. Specific levels of involvement will be finalized with guidance from the consulting team and stakeholders (see Task 1).

5.2. History of Accomplishments

The St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District was formed in 1971 to develop, manage and protect water resources in the Longmont area by providing cutting edge water education, acting as stewards for a very precious natural resource, helping people and governmental agencies find creative solutions to meet their water needs, fighting threats to local water supplies and protect existing water rights, and ensuring high quality water is available for future generations.

For over 45 years the District has lead and partnered in many significant water related activities in the basin. A few examples are provided below:

Protection of North St. Vrain Creek: The District fought alongside other water users on a proposal designating the North St. Vrain Creek as Wild and Scenic. Concerned about restrictions and effects on private property and water rights, the District participated in a decade long process that resulted in a 1996 compromise amending the legislation that created Rocky Mountain National Park to include a prohibition on “construction of any new dam, reservoir, or impoundment on any segment of North St. Vrain Creek or its tributaries within the boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park or on the main stem of North St. Vrain Creek downstream to the point at which the creek crosses the elevation 6,550 feet” (approximately the upstream terminus of Button Rock Reservoir).

Flow Enhancements along St. Vrain Creek: In 2009, the District as a member of the St. Vrain Corridor Committee facilitated an effort to install gates within diversion structures to pass voluntary winter flows from Button Rock Reservoir to Longmont. This project was partially funded by a CWCB grant.

St. Vrain Creek Coalition: Following the September 2013 flood, the District advocated for a collaborative approach to flood recovery. Working closely with federal, state and local partners the District played a critical leadership role ensuring the coalition was structured effectively to maximize flood recovery funding. For example, the District facilitated local stakeholders in the process of creating coalition bylaws and governance structure.

Ditch Company Funding: Following the September 2013 flood, the District worked with FEMA and CWCB to design a method for ditch companies to receive funding. The work with FEMA lead to “Issue Paper #4” that provided 75% funding for ditch company diversions (which had never been provided in the past) and the work with CWCB lead to unique emergency loan and grant programs.

5.3. Staffing Resources

This proposal includes the hiring of a project manager, and other expert consultants for the “heavy lift”, though local expertise will be provided. Specifically the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District has committed ¼ time of its Executive Director, Sean Cronin, for the entirety of the project. Sean has 20 plus years experience in water resource planning and policy, serves on the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC), is a former chair of the South Platte

Basin Roundtable, and serves on the board for Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group and St. Vrain Creek Coalition. Though specific commitments have not yet been obtained, many other stakeholders (listed in section 5.1) have indicated a willingness to dedicate expertise to this project as well.

6. Monitoring and Implementation Plan

Ultimately, project success will be measured on its ability to implement projects or management strategies that protect or improve the health of the St. Vrain and Left Hand creeks while also meeting water users’ needs. On a short term basis, the project will measure its success by:

- Active participation by a range of stakeholders and buy-in to proceed to Phase 2
- Completion of all deliverables in the scope of work on time and on budget
- A second grant request to CWCB in 2019 for Phase 2

7. Budget, Match and Schedule

7.1. Budget and Match

Task	Task Description	Estimated Labor Dollars	Estimated Other Direct Costs Dollars	Total Project Costs Dollars
1	Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach	\$ 26,400	\$ 600	\$ 27,000
2	Existing Data Collection and Information Review	\$ 36,000	\$ -	\$ 36,000
3	Demand Shortage and Infrastructure Assessment	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000
4	River Health Assessment	\$ 69,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 70,000
5	Phase 1 Final Report and Phase 2 Recommendations	\$ 44,400	\$ 500	\$ 44,900
6	Project Management and Coordination	\$ 46,800	\$ 300	\$ 47,100
	Totals	\$ 297,600	\$ 2,400	\$300,000

As shown above Phase 1 is expected to cost \$300,000. The match, shown below, is mostly cash (\$7,000 in-kind). There is still \$35,500 in funding that has not been committed or secured.

GRANT		MATCH					
CWCB Funds	American Whitewater (In-Kind)	TU - St. Vrain Anglers	SPBRT - WSRF	SVLHWCD	JLB	Boulder County (To be Requested for 2019 Budget)	City of Longmont (Pending 2019 Budget Approval)
\$ 13,500			\$ 13,500				
\$ 18,000		\$5,000	\$ 13,000				
\$ 37,500	\$ 7,000		\$ 23,500	\$ 7,000			
\$ 35,000				\$ 35,000			
\$ 22,450				\$ 8,000	\$2,500	\$ 11,950	
\$ 23,550						\$ 5,800	\$ 17,750
\$ 150,000	\$ 7,000	\$5,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$2,500	\$ 17,750	\$ 17,750

7.2. Schedule

A schedule for the SMP is shown in Attachment C.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Map of Project's Geographic Scope

Attachment B: Existing Studies

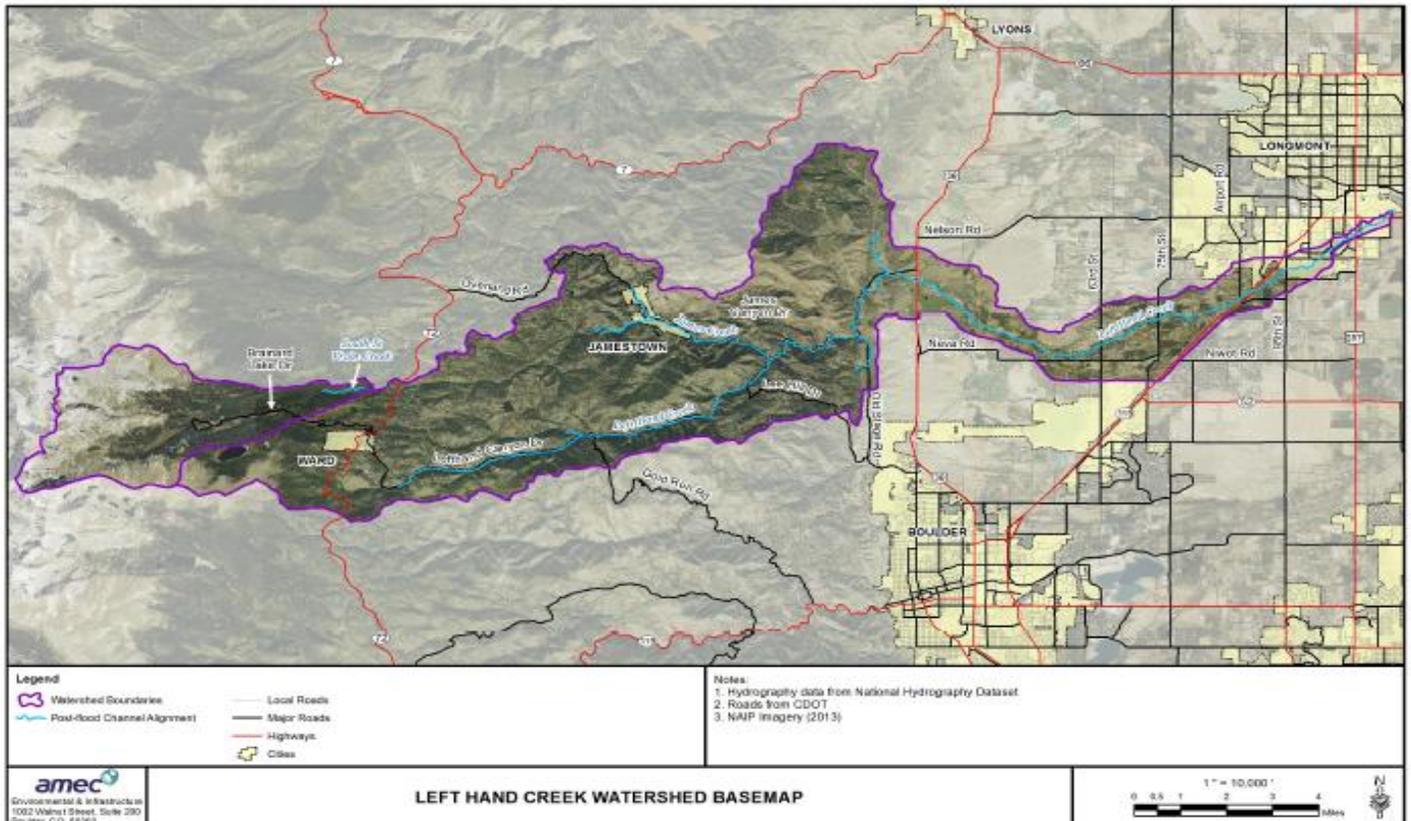
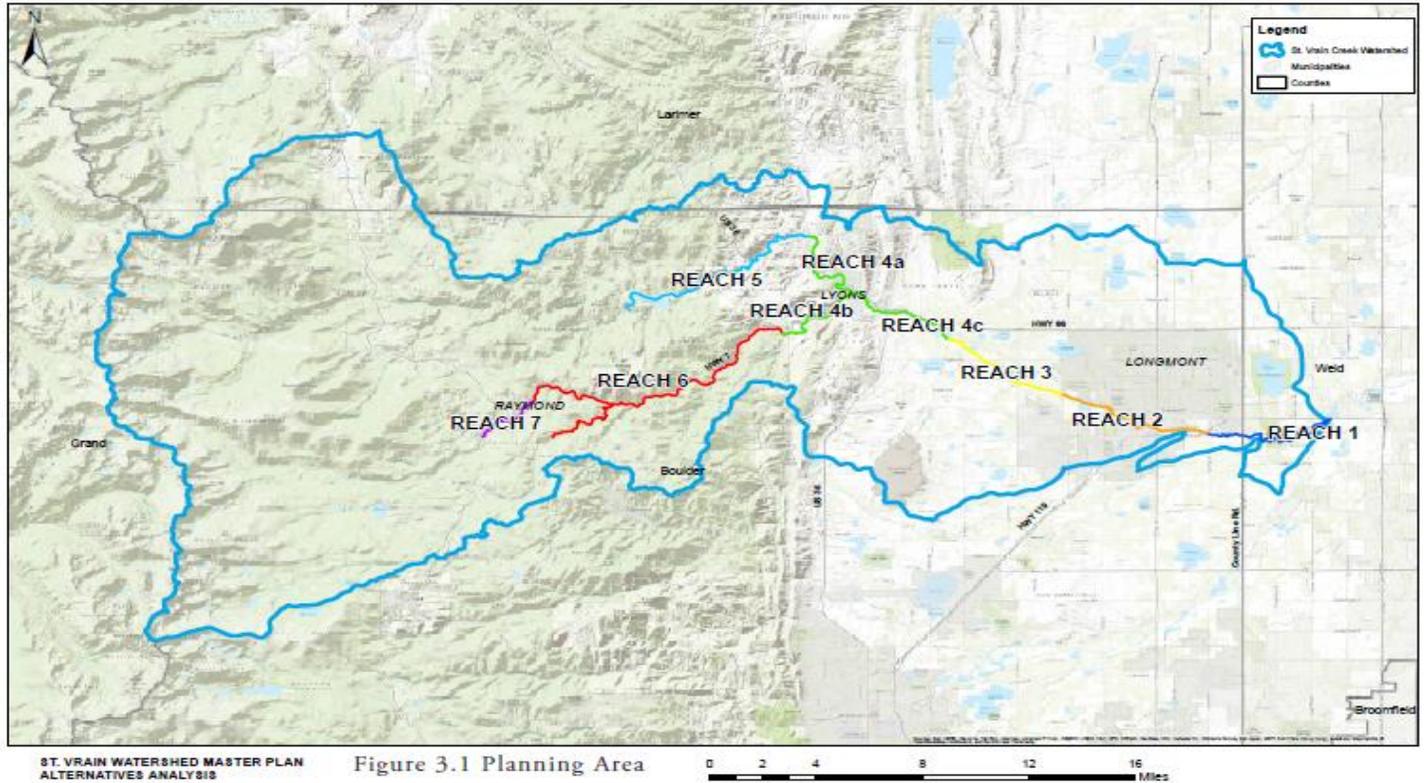
Attachment C: Budget and Schedule

Attachment D: Scope of Work

Attachment E: Letters of Support

Attachment A: Map of Project's Geographic Scope

Maps are from post flood master plans. Note, St Vrain for the SMP, the St. Vrain will continue downstream to the confluence of the South Plate River.



Attachment B: Existing Studies

St. Vrain Creek – High Relevance

- City of Longmont Button Rock Preserve Forest Stewardship Plan (2017)
- North St. Vrain - Post-disturbance sediment recovery: implications for watershed resilience (2017)
- South Platte Basin Implementation Plan Appendix D – Environmental and Recreational Assessment Methodology and Framework – West Sage (2015)
- St. Vrain Creek Watershed Masterplan, Baker (2014)
- Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (Environmental Resources Element and Supplemental Materials) – (2014)
- Hydrologic modeling for Boulder and St. Vrain Creeks – CWCB (2014)
- Post-Flood Analysis of Minor Storm Risks in St. Vrain Creek through Longmont (draft) – CH2M Hill (2014)
- City of Longmont Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan (2014)
- Town of Lyons Sustainable River Corridor Action Plan (2014)
- City of Longmont St. Vrain Blueprint Planning Study (2014)
- Town of Lyons Recovery Action Plan - Colorado Floods (2013)
- Status of the Plains Topminnow – Colorado Parks and Wildlife (2012)
- Changes in range-wide distribution of plains topminnow *Fundulus sciadicus* – University of Nebraska (2012)
- Boulder County Parks and Open Space Water Policy - (2012)
- City of Longmont St. Vrain Creek Riparian Corridor Protection Plan (2010)
- Sandstone Ranch Reclamation Plan – GEI Consultants (2009)
- Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Boulder County, CO – Colorado Natural Heritage Program (2007-2008, 2009)
- Pella West (Marlatt Ponds) Hydrology Study – BCPOS (2009)
- South Platte Basin Roundtable, nonconsumptive needs assessment mapping (2009)
- South St. Vrain Creek - balance in the basin, phase II report: feasibility evaluation of flow restoration options – Colorado Water Trust (2009)
- Aquatic communities and selected water chemistry in St. Vrain Creek near the City of Longmont, Colorado, wastewater-treatment plant, (2005 and 2006)
- St. Vrain Trail Master Plan – BCPOS (2004)
- St. Vrain Creek Corridor Open Space Management Plan – BCPOS (2004)
- North St. Vrain - Reach-scale channel geometry of a mountain river (2004)
- *Spiranthes diluvialis*: Habitat Assessment and Survey Report – BCPOS (2001)
- St. Vrain Creek Greenway Master Plan – City of Longmont and Design Workshop (2001)
- Environmental Assessment: South St. Vrain Creek – BCPOS (2000)
- Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (2nd Edition) – (1999)

Left Hand Creek – High Relevance

- Left Hand Creek Watershed Masterplan – AMEC (2014)
- Watershed Management Plan for the Upper Lefthand Creek Watershed (2005)
- Town of Jamestown Stream Corridor Master Plan Technical Memorandum
- Draft Hydrologic Evaluation of the Lefthand Creek Watershed Post September 2013 Flood Event

Both St. Vrain Creek and Left Hand Creek – High Relevance

- Colorado hazard mapping program, hydrologic analysis technical support data notebook for the St. Vrain watershed, AECOM (2016)
- Effects of habitat complexity loss on eastern slope Rocky Mountain brook trout populations (2016)
- Keep it Clean Partnership - St. Vrain basin watershed-based plan: Boulder Creek, St. Vrain Creek and tributaries (2015)
- Hydrology Investigation: Phase One – 2013 Flood Peak Flow Determinations – CDOT/CWCB (2014)
- Boulder County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (2013)
- Boulder County Comprehensive Plan – Environmental Resources Element and Supplemental Materials (2013)
- BCPOS Riparian Inventory and Assessment (2009)
- Boulder County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (2008)
- South Platte river system in Colorado hydrology, development and management issues – Colorado Water Resources Research Institute (1990)
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment TMDL

St. Vrain Creek – Unknown Relevance

- Leaky rivers: implications of the loss of longitudinal fluvial disconnectivity in headwater streams (2014)
- Hall Ranch Meadows Natural Resource Assessment – BCPOS (2005)
- Mining Areas – BCPOS (2004)
- Keyes Property Rapid Assessment Report – BCPOS (2002)
- BCPOS Braly Property Rapid Assessment Report (2001)
- Resource Assessment Report: Custode Property – BCPOS (2001)
- Ramey Homestead Property - Rapid Environmental Site Assessment – BCPOS (2001)
- Conservation Handbook on the Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse – BCPOS (2000)
- Habitat Conservation for Birds of Prey on Western Mobile Boulder Inc. Lyons Property – BCPOS (1997)
- Habitat Use by Breeding Birds on Western Mobile Inc. Lyons Property – Boulder County Parks and Open Space (1997)
- Third Year Survey for Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse in Colorado – BCPOS (1997)
- North Foothills Open space Management Plan (1996)

Left Hand Creek – Unknown Relevance

- Leaky rivers: implications of the loss of longitudinal fluvial disconnectivity in headwater streams (2014)
- Lefthand creek watershed, use of NPL as catalyst for abandoned mine cleanup – EPA (2003)

Attachment C: Budget and Schedule

Task	Task Description	Estimated Labor Dollars	Estimated Other Direct Costs Dollars	Total Project Costs Dollars
1	Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach	\$ 26,400	\$ 600	\$ 27,000
2	Existing Data Collection and Information Review	\$ 36,000	\$ -	\$ 36,000
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GRANT		MATCH					
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\$ 35,000				\$ 35,000			
\$ 22,450				\$ 8,000	\$2,500	\$ 11,950	
\$ 23,550						\$ 5,800	\$ 17,750
\$ 150,000	\$ 7,000	\$5,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$2,500	\$ 17,750	\$ 17,750

Task	Task Description	Target Start	Target Complete
1	Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach	7/1/2018	7/1/2019
2	Existing Data Collection and Information Review	9/1/2018	11/1/2018
3	Demand Shortage and Infrastructure Assessment	9/1/2018	3/1/2019
4	River Health Assessment	9/1/2018	5/1/2019
5	Phase 1 Final Report and Phase 2 Recommendations	5/1/2018	7/1/2019
6	Project Management and Coordination	7/1/2018	7/1/2019

Billing Rate	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 100	\$ 100					
									Total Labor Costs Dollars	Other Direct Costs Dollars	Totals
Task 1											
Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach											
1.1 Convene key stakeholders; establish roles and responsibilities	16	16	16	16							
1.2 Develop Stakeholder Engagement Plan	32	8	8	8							
1.3 Develop Community Engagement Plan	32	8	8	8							
Total Hours	80	32	32	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	176
Total Cost	\$ 12,000	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 26,400	\$ 600	\$ 27,000
Task 2											
Existing Data Collection and Information Review											
2.1 Organize information into database		80									
2.2 Create on-line spatial database		80									
2.3 Develop web-based mapping application		80									
Total Hours	0	240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	240
Total Cost	\$ 0	\$ 36,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 36,000	\$ 0	\$ 36,000
Task 3											
Demand Shortage and Infrastructure Assessment											
3.1 Obtain SPSS data; est. daily point flows; analyze natural vs existing conditions			100								
3.2 Compile information and data on water sector infrastructure; develop recommendations and conceptual costs.			100								
3.3 Recreational flow studies			8		120						
3.4 Project future hydrology and water availability			80								
3.5 Project future demand shortages for ag, munic and rec uses			100								
3.6 Assess need for additional analysis relative to uses for Study Area			32								
Total Hours	0	0	420	0	120	0	0	0	0	0	540
Total Cost	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 63,000	\$ 0	\$ 12,000	\$ 0	\$ 12,000	\$ 0	\$ 75,000	\$ 0	\$ 75,000
Task 4											
River Health Assessment											
4.1 Develop stream health assessment framework			60								
4.2 Divide Study Area into homogenous zones and reaches			60								
4.3 Desktop and rapid field evaluations			80								
4.4 Evaluate health of individual reaches, zones based on stressors and evidence assessment			100								
4.5 Identify challenges to maintaining river health			60								
4.6 Develop list of outstanding data needs for ranking			40								
4.7 Draft list of watershed focus areas			60								
Total Hours	0	0	460	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	460
Total Cost	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 69,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 69,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 70,000
Task 5											
Phase 1 Final Report and Phase 2 Recommendations											
5.1 Compile project information	16	80	60	60							
5.2 Develop on-line interactive report		80									
Total Hours	16	160	60	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	296
Total Cost	\$ 2,400	\$ 24,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 44,400	\$ 500	\$ 44,900
Task 6											
Project Management and Coordination											
6.1 Coordinate with Project Team		48	24	24	24						
6.2 Compile team invoices; track project metrics; progress reports		48									
6.3 CWCB progress reports and communication		40									
6.4 Support Task 1 meetings		48	24	24	24						
Total Hours	0	184	48	48	48	48	0	0	0	0	328
Total Cost	\$ 0	\$ 27,600	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 46,800	\$ 300	\$ 47,100

ATTACHMENT D: SCOPE OF WORK

GRANTEE AND FISCAL AGENT – St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (District)

PRIMARY CONTACT – Sean Cronin, Executive Director

ADDRESS - 9595 Nelson Road, Suite 203, Longmont, CO 80501

PHONE – 303-772-4060

PROJECT TITLE/NAME – St. Vrain & Left Hand Stream Management Plan

GRANT AMOUNT REQUEST - \$150,000

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Following flood recovery projects, the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, and in response to requests for leadership, the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District convened stakeholder meetings over two months to obtain feedback on: 1.) interest in pursuing a Stream Management Plan, and 2.) if the District should take the lead on applying for the grant. Through these face to face meetings, as well as one-on-one interviews conducted with the help of River Network, stakeholders agreed the District should have a leadership role and this grant could serve as an opportunity to transition our focus from flood recovery to water use strategies that benefit river health.

Through collaboration and inclusivity the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (District) will lead the development of a Stream Management Plan (SMP) for St. Vrain Creek and Left Hand Creek.

The overall goal of the SMP is to collaboratively identify projects and management strategies in both St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks that transition stakeholders from flood recovery to stream health projects that improve environmental conditions in the river while also meeting water users' current and future needs and are aligned with private property rights, public land and resource management plans, and the prior appropriation system. The District will lead the development of a SMP that will take place in two phases over approximately five years. The SMP will be based upon assessments that use science and other technical methods to determine water use needs.

OBJECTIVES

The District proposes to develop the Project in two phases over approximately five years. The overall objectives and schedule for each phase is described below.

Phase 1 – 2018-2019

- Objective 1: Identify and engage key stakeholders in developing and implementing a comprehensive Stream Management Plan for the St. Vrain Basin
- Objective 2: Compile existing databases, reports, studies, and analyses of environmental, recreational, municipal, and agricultural water uses within the Study Area. Identify information gaps and address those information gaps to the greatest extent feasible
- Objective 3 - Document future water needs of agricultural, environmental, recreational, and municipal users in the Study Area, including water supply shortages and infrastructure needs
- Objective 4 – Assess river functional health within the Study Area and inventory stressors that are challenging or degrading it, identify priority reaches for Phase 2, and additional data or information needs
- Objective 5 – Compile results from Objectives 1 – 4 and develop an on-line interactive report that communicates the results and makes recommendations for proceeding to Phase 2

Phase 2 – 2019 - 2022

- Objective 1 – Collect additional data on priority reaches as identified in Objective 4, Phase 1
- Objective 2 – Work with stakeholders to select specific management objectives for the priority reaches and describe measurable goals
- Objective 3 - Quantify projects or management options such as ranges of numeric flow recommendations to support environmental and recreational values that meet water users' needs as identified in Objective 3 of Phase 1

- Objective 4 – Identify constraints and opportunities that may limit or assist in meeting the project goals
- Objective 5 - Revise the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plans to reflect the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders for project implementation

TASKS

The following tasks support implementation of **Phase 1 (this grant application)**.

Task 1 – Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach

Description of Task

The St. Vrain watershed has a diverse array of stakeholders that use and derive value from the waters of the St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks and its watershed. These include agricultural users including ditch companies, domestic water providers, recreational users, and government agencies. User groups that represent the diverse ecological benefits of the watershed will also be engaged.

Outreach to stakeholders has already begun as part of the scoping process for this grant application. The stakeholders listed in section 5.1 of the application have already actively engaged in this initial process. Evaluation of the project scope by local stakeholders will provide meaningful context for development of a purpose statement and set of planning principles that will guide the remainder of the planning effort. The consulting team will coordinate a Kickoff Meeting where stakeholders will have an opportunity to suggest refinement to the scope and help shape the timeline and guiding principles for the project.

It is recognized that not all stakeholders will want to engage with the stream management planning process in the same ways. Therefore, a purpose of this task is to organize and convene the key stakeholders, who will contribute meaningfully, in the Study Area and assign roles and responsibilities throughout Phase 1. Moreover this task will both maximize the outreach effort, and maximize the engagement opportunities for those stakeholders that elect to participate. Specific subtasks are described below.

- Subtask 1.1 - Convene key stakeholders and outline operating protocols, roles and responsibilities and group decision making procedures that will move the planning process forward.
- Subtask 1.2 – Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan that identifies tangible and metrically-driven involvement and participation goals and objectives, targeting consumptive and non-consumptive stakeholders. Specific elements of this plan will include, but not be limited to:
 - Creation of a list of the stakeholders who should be included throughout all phases of SMP development.
 - Development of guiding principles for stakeholder engagement, including expectations and outcomes of the plan.
 - Creation of a schedule and objectives for each meeting (will be dynamic as the phases of the SMP are completed); anticipate 8 meetings.
 - Identification and prioritization of ecological and recreational values that could be protected or enhanced.
- Subtask 1.3 – Implement Stakeholder Engagement Plan
 - Fulfill elements of engagement plan.
 - Facilitation of each meeting to ensure adherence to agenda topics, respectful and construction dialogue, and equal and fair treatment of all individuals and perspectives in the group.
 - Documentation of each meeting to capture key themes of discussion (including minority viewpoints and areas of disagreement), agreements, and action items.
 - Circulation of draft documents for stakeholder review, consideration of all proposed changes, revision of draft documents as appropriate, and distribution of all final summaries.
- Subtask 1.4 - Develop a Community Engagement Plan that identifies tangible and metrically-driven involvement and participation goals and objectives. Specific elements of this plan will include, but not be limited to:

- Consultation with the stakeholder group to solicit input on best approaches to community engagement in the Study Area.
- Additional consultation if/as needed with local watershed groups, ditch companies, recreation groups, and others to solicit input on the best methods for community engagement.
- Host up to three Community Engagement meetings that will aim to meet the objectives of the Plan.

Method/Procedure

The District will capitalize on local knowledge and experience by involving stakeholder groups, such as the St. Vrain Creek Coalition, Left Hand Watershed Oversight Group, and other entities in the watershed throughout the SMP development. Outreach will be obtained and conducted through a series of progress meetings and/or other means such as surveys, etc. as identified in the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plans.

The District believes a Facilitation Consultant is necessary as part of the consultant team to support the stakeholder and community engagement meetings as well as a Project Manager to support the organization, coordination, and documentation needed for this task. We anticipate that the stakeholder group will meet approximately 8 times, and the broader community will meet 3 times over the course of Phase 1 of the project. Consulting teams however will be encouraged for proposals to recommend cost effective strategies that maximize funds and stakeholder contact.

Deliverable(s)

- Organize and facilitate eight Stakeholder Meetings and three Community meetings
 - Input from a broad array of stakeholders that represent both geographic, issue, and value diversity within the watershed.
- Meeting agendas, participants, and notes
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Community Engagement Plan

Task 2 – Existing Data Collection and Review

Description of Task

An extensive literature review will be carried out to determine what relevant information is already available, and to synthesize that information in a manner that is accessible (an interactive web mapping application) and connects datasets and conclusions. This literature review will serve as the foundation of the stream management plan.

The literature review will emphasize information on water supply, current consumptive and non-consumptive water use, projected future water use, recreational needs, and ecological needs. Quantitative information gaps identified in the literature review process will also be prioritized for additional data collection as part of the stream management plan, specifically the calculation of water supply and demand, as well as quantitative assessment of environmental and recreational needs. Where this information does not adequately exist, it will be prioritized for development as part of the stream management plan in Phase 2. A comprehensive listing of existing studies/reports can be found in Attachment B of the grant application. Specific subtasks are described below.

- Subtask 2.1 – Extract and organize information from existing studies and databases.
- Subtask 2.2 - Create an on-line spatial GIS database to house or link to existing information and data.
- Subtask 2.3 – Develop a publicly accessible web-based mapping interface (like the Colorado Basin Roundtable’s or equivalent) that allows users to access and view the spatial database information. This is being identified as a separate task as it adds an additional level of complexity to providing an interface with the data and user.

Method/Procedure

This task is limited to only the collection, compilation, and reduction of existing data. No new assessments will be done for this phase.

Deliverable(s)

- On-line spatial GIS database
- Web-based mapping interface
- Prioritized list of, and action plan for, additional data needs to be developed as part of the stream management plan

Task 3 – Hydrology Characterization, Demand Shortage and Recreation Assessment

Description of Task

The purpose of this task is to characterize point flows in St. Vrain Creek and Left Hand Creek and how water is currently stored, diverted, consumed, and returned within the Study Area. This task will also identify the future needs of the domestic, recreational and agricultural water users in the Study Area, including shortages.

- Subtask 3.1 – Obtain existing monthly SPDSS river flow data (1950 through 2012) and develop estimated daily point flows for Study Area streams from the dataset. Describe river flow data, decreed diversions, and irrigated acreages. River flow data will be considered for natural conditions (no diversions, imports or releases) and existing conditions (current diversions) for wet, dry and average conditions.
- Subtask 3.2 – Compile information and data on the condition of the existing domestic and agricultural diversions, delivery and application (irrigation) infrastructure.
- Subtask 3.3 - Develop and conduct recreational flow studies on those river reaches in the Study Area with significant current or planned recreational (boating or fishing) use, to collect and organize overall and specific flow evaluations, and define optimal and acceptable flow ranges that meet current recreational needs.
- Subtask 3.4 -- Project future changes in hydrology and water availability patterns due to climate scenarios developed by the CWCB.
- Subtask 3.5 – Project potential future demand shortages in agricultural, municipal and recreational uses. It is anticipated that the calculation of each of these demands will require different tools and approaches.
- Subtask 3.6 – Assess whether more detailed daily point flow modeling is beneficial for assessment of stream conditions relative to uses for all or portions of the Study Area and recommend any needed hydrology modeling for Phase 2.

Method/Procedure

A database of monthly point flows (presented as average daily flows) at diversions and confluences on streams within the Study Area will be created using existing StateMod modeling of the St. Vrain and Left Hand basins developed for the South Platte Decision Support System (SPDSS). The SPDSS modeling includes data for natural flows as well as for historical conditions. Communications with owners of existing municipal, agricultural, and recreational infrastructure and field reconnaissance where necessary, will be used to develop information for subtask 3.2. If available, information regarding effects of climate change on stream hydrology will be sought and characterized and incorporated into the point flows database. Water providers and water users will be contacted, and existing information will be reviewed and used to the extent possible, to assess future demand increases for municipal, agricultural and recreational water users, and the resulting impacts on point flows. The project will seek to identify where/whether a true daily point flow model needs to be developed in Phase 2 to assess needs and to project results of management changes.

Deliverable(s)

- Information (data and graphics) showing estimated daily hydrology in the basin under natural, current and projected future conditions
- Infrastructure condition assessment results
- List of recommended infrastructure improvements and conceptual costs
- List of recommended strategies for those locations that can also benefit stream health conditions and any incremental costs associated with those improvements
- Recommendation for further daily point flow development
- Technical Report summarizing results of subtasks 3.1 – 3.6

Task 4 – River Health Assessment

Description of Task

The purpose of this task is to assess river functional health within the Study Area, inventorying stressors using data and analyses compiled during Tasks 2 and 3, and completing additional desktop and rapid field evaluations. Functional health assessment results can then be compared to stakeholders' priority ecological and recreational values to identify a subset of priority reaches. Priority reaches will be assessed for projects and management strategies, including flow targets, in Phase 2. The river health assessment will be carried out by a multi-disciplinary team hired by the District. Specific subtasks are described below.

- Subtask 4.1 – Develop a stream health assessment framework calibrated specifically to the study area based on an appropriate holistic stream health assessment methodology, such as the Colorado Stream Health Assessment Framework, that includes assessment of fluvial geomorphology, water quality, aquatic habitat quality and riparian area health.
- Subtask 4.2 – Divide the study area into relatively homogenous zones and reaches to be evaluated.
- Subtask 4.3 – Conduct desktop and rapid field evaluations as needed to complete river health assessment. The extent of evaluations will depend upon the quality and quantity of data found in Task 2.
- Subtask 4.4 – Evaluate the health of individual reaches, zones, streams (St. Vrain and Left Hand) and the watershed based on assessment of stressors and evidence of their effects.
- Subtask 4.5 – Use the list of priority ecological and recreational values identified in subtask 1.2 to characterize challenges to maintaining river health in light of societal demands.
- Subtask 4.6 – Compile results from subtask 4.1 – 4.5 and develop a set of criteria that allows the stakeholders to rank and select their top priority reaches for management strategies.
- Subtask 4.7 – Draft a list of watershed focus areas based on the needs identified in previous subtasks and identify outstanding data needs for each.

Method/Procedure

The St. Vrain and Left Hand Creek stream health assessment framework will be assembled by a multi-disciplinary team based on sound science, while being responsive to known issues and stakeholder input (subtask 4.1). The study area will be divided based on stream system (St. Vrain vs. Left Hand). Each of the two stream systems, including the mainstem and major tributaries will be subdivided into appropriately homogenous zones and/or individual reaches based on process domains and land cover/land use (subtask 4.2).

According to the assessment methodology chosen, desired ranges for stream health variables or criteria will be designated. Desired ranges will incorporate stakeholder input. They will be articulated by the study team and should represent levels which will maintain the balance between stream needs and its ability to provide the ecosystem services society depends on, remain resilient and ecologically viable, while satisfying purely human needs such as municipal and agricultural water supply.

Once the stream health study framework and design have been developed, stream health will be evaluated using the best available information (subtask 4.4). The stream health assessment will be considered a "living" document that will be continually built upon and improved as new information is developed. Existing data and the collection of new data will be used to fill out the framework (subtask 4.3). New data will be collected at a level of intensity commensurate with need and available budget. Based on these analyses and those of previous tasks, opportunities for, and challenges to, maintaining river health will be articulated (subtask 4.5).

Once analysis of river health is complete, lists of priority reaches will be assembled based on identified stream needs and stakeholder input (subtask 4.6).

Analyses of river health will reveal areas and subjects for which insufficient information exists to make decisions with an appropriate level of certainty. Data gaps will be listed and candidate priorities for obtaining new

information will be developed (subtask 4.7).

Deliverable(s)

- Completed health assessment including hierarchical summary of reach condition, zone condition and overall stream condition. The health assessment will include graphical exhibits and be integrated into the geospatial database created in Task 2.
- Narrative and quantitative rationale for each health conclusion.
- A list of candidate priority reaches for health improvement and data gaps needed to be filled in Phase 2 to better assess and recommend strategies.

Task 5 – Phase 1 Final Report and Phase 2 Recommendations

Description of Task

The purpose of this task is to compile results from Tasks 1 – 4 and develop an on-line interactive report that: 1) highlights the existing and future demand gaps and infrastructure needs for the agricultural, recreational, and municipal sectors; 2) presents information on the functional health of the Study Area by reach; and 3) discusses next steps for the priority reaches, including identification of data gaps and methods and costs for obtaining that information. This deliverable may resemble the Reach Fact Sheets¹ developed for the Big Thompson River.

Method/Procedure

- Compile data and information from Tasks 1-4
- Develop an on-line interactive report summarizing Phase 1

Deliverable(s)

- On-line interactive report
- Strategies and Recommendations for Phase 2

¹ <https://www.abetterbigt.com/baseline-resiliency-assessment>

TASK 6 – Project Management and Coordination

Description of Task

The purpose of this task is to support St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District with the project management needs of the Project, specifically: tracking project progress, including each subconsultant’s deliverables and costs against the scope of work; supporting the District with the necessary communication and coordination with the Project Team; coordinating with Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), as needed; and preparing for and participating in public education and stakeholder meetings. Specific subtasks are described below.

- Subtask 6.1 - Coordinate with Project Team (propose monthly project check-in meetings).
- Subtask 6.2 - Compile monthly subconsultant invoices; track project budget, deliverables, and schedule and document in monthly progress reports (includes tracking of in-kind hours and cash match).
- Subtask 6.3 - Develop required CWCB 6-month progress reports; final report (see Task 5).

Method/Procedure

The District will hire a Consultant to provide Project Management services as identified above.

Deliverable(s)

- Progress reports
- Monthly invoices

BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Attachment C provides a summary of the tasks, schedule, costs and funds to support implementation of Phase 1.

Attachment E: Letters of Support

October 26, 2017

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District – Stream Management Plan Grant Application

Dear Chris,

I am writing in support of a grant application, submitted by the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program – Stream Management Plan Grant.

The St. Vrain Watershed is home to a diverse population of native fish, the birthplace of “first in time, first in right”, on the receiving end of transmountain water supplies from the Colorado River, hosts one of the country’s largest outdoor games, is widely studied by academic institutions and state and local governments, has its headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park, and its confluence in a county that has claim to the largest agricultural economic producing county in the entire state. In short, the St. Vrain Watershed is an ideal place for a Stream Management Plan, and I view a Stream Management Plan as a necessary next step following the tens of millions in state and federal funds provided for the flood recovery.

In partnership with the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, I propose that this Stream Management Plan evaluate flow and other structural or management conditions needed to support both recreational uses and ecosystem function, to involve diverse stakeholders, be rooted in science, incorporate community values, and identify actions to improve existing conditions.

This application is vital to our community to ensure diverse stakeholders are involved with long term management strategies that can improve our rivers ecosystem and recreational opportunities. Therefore, I fully support this application and encourage the Colorado Water Conservation Board to fully fund the request.

Sincerely,

Jason Whitmore
Treatment Manager
Left Hand Water District



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October 27, 2017

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District – Stream Management Plan Grant Application

Dear Chris,

I am writing you to express our support of a grant application, submitted by the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program – Stream Management Plan Grant.

The City of Longmont and other watershed partners continue to complete a monumental flood recovery effort in this watershed. Continued comprehensive planning to allow us to take the next step in this recovery effort is critical at this time. We need to make a comprehensive effort to insure that the many point repairs are transitioned into a more comprehensive stream management effort that takes into account the wide values that the Saint Vrain Creek and its tributaries provide. This can only be accomplished at this time with a more comprehensive stream management planning effort.

As you are aware, the St. Vrain Creek Watershed is home to a diverse population of native fish, the birthplace of "first in time, first in right", on the receiving end of transmountain water supplies from the Colorado River, hosts one of the country's largest outdoor games, is widely studied by academic institutions and state and local governments, has its headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park, and its confluence in a county that has claim to the largest agricultural economic producing county in the entire state. In short, the St. Vrain Watershed is an ideal place for a Stream Management Plan, and the City of Longmont views a Stream Management Plan as a necessary next step following the tens of millions in state and federal funds provided for the flood recovery.

In partnership with the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District and the many other partners in this basin, we propose that this Stream Management Plan evaluate flow and other structural or management conditions needed to support both recreational uses and ecosystem

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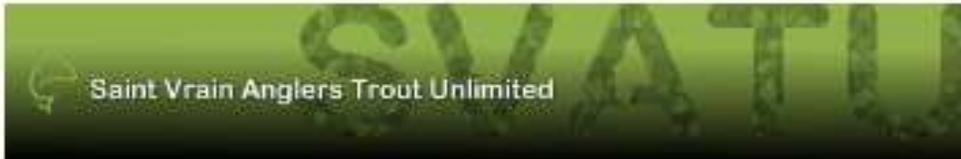
function, to involve diverse stakeholders, be rooted in science, incorporate community values, and identify actions to improve existing conditions.

This application is vital to our community to ensure diverse stakeholders are involved with long term management strategies that can improve our rivers ecosystem and recreational opportunities. Therefore we fully support this application and respectfully ask the Colorado Water Conservation Board to fully fund the request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken S Huson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Ken Huson, P.E.
Water Resources Manager
City of Longmont



October 27, 2017

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District – Stream Management Plan Grant Application

Dear Chris,

The St. Vrain Chapter, Trout Unlimited is writing in support of a grant application, submitted by the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program – Stream Management Plan Grant.

The St. Vrain Watershed is home to a diverse population of native fish, the birthplace of “first in time, first in right”, on the receiving end of transmountain water supplies from the Colorado River, hosts one of the country’s largest outdoor games, is widely studied by academic institutions and state and local governments, has its headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park, and its confluence in a county that has claim to the largest agricultural economic producing county in the entire state. In short, the St. Vrain Watershed is an ideal place for a Stream Management Plan, and the St. Vrain Chapter, Trout Unlimited views a Stream Management Plan as a necessary next step following the tens of millions in state and federal funds provided for the flood recovery.

In partnership with the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, the St. Vrain Chapter, Trout Unlimited proposes that this Stream Management Plan evaluate flow and other structural or management conditions needed to support both recreational uses and ecosystem function, to involve diverse stakeholders, be rooted in science, incorporate community values, and identify actions to improve existing conditions. Our commitment to this effort is underscored by our \$5000 financial contribution to the project.

This application is vital to our community to ensure diverse stakeholders are involved with long term management strategies that can improve our rivers ecosystem and recreational opportunities. Therefore, the St. Vrain Chapter, Trout Unlimited fully supports this application and encourages the Colorado Water Conservation Board to fully fund the request.

Sincerely,

Barbara Luneau
St. Vrain Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Conservation Committee Chairperson



November 1, 2017

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District – Stream Management Plan Grant Application

Dear Chris,

The Left Hand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG) is pleased to submit this letter in support of a grant application submitted by the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (SVLHWCD), to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program – Stream Management Plan Grant.

The watershed of Left Hand and St. Vrain Creeks is a prime example of a Front Range watershed with relatively low average flow and high demand for those limited flows. Water demands from these creeks to be diverted and put to beneficial use arose early in Colorado's history as a territory and state. By the late 19th century, almost all the creeks' normal flows were fully allocated. It was in this watershed that the conflict of Coffin v. Left Hand Ditch arose in 1879, leading to the 1882 Colorado Supreme Court decision that solidified the prior appropriation doctrine as the basis for Colorado water law. These creeks are home to rare native fish populations, Boulder County designated critical raptor habitat of cottonwood groves, municipalities and water districts that serve drinking water to tens of thousands of people, and a long tradition of agricultural water use.

In addition to the tough water demand situation, the Left Hand and St. Vrain Watershed possesses a strong asset that makes the Watershed ideal for the development of a stream management plan: a network of hardworking, well-spoken stakeholders who are accustomed to collaboration. Stakeholder communication is facilitated under the leadership of SVLHWCD and two nonprofit creek coalitions: the St. Vrain Creek Coalition and LWOG. All three entities are committed to working together with the various stakeholders to find reasonable solutions to the Watershed's stream management needs.

This application is essential to our community, to ensure diverse stakeholders are involved with long term management strategies to improve our rivers' ecosystem and recreational opportunities. Therefore, LWOG fully supports this application and encourages the Colorado Water Conservation Board to fully fund the request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JO', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jessica Olson, Executive Director
Left Hand Watershed Oversight Group



Board of County Commissioners

November 2, 2017

Mr. Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District –
Stream Management Plan Grant Application**

Dear Chris:

Boulder County is writing in support of the grant application to develop a Stream Management Plan for the St. Vrain Watershed, which is being submitted by the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (SVLHWCD) to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program. Our agency, along with other local government agency and community stakeholders, has been an active participant in developing the SVLHWCD's application and applauds the collaborative approach that the SVLHWCD employed to do so.

The St. Vrain Watershed, from the headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park to its confluence with the South Platte, is home to numerous lands that are preserved and managed for their agricultural and ecological resource values. Boulder County, through its Parks and Open Space Department, has preserved over nine miles of St. Vrain Creek and its tributaries for these very reasons. Within Boulder County, St. Vrain Creek, Left Hand Creek, and James Creek are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike for their natural beauty, ecological diversity, and recreational opportunities for people with all levels of ability. After the 2013 flood event, millions of local, state, and federal funds were invested in the recovery of the St. Vrain Watershed. Now, four years later, we believe that it is appropriate to develop a comprehensive vision and proactive approach for the long-term management of the watershed.

We believe that a Stream Management Plan is an appropriate tool to involve a diverse set of stakeholders and the broader community to identify common goals; evaluate flows; better understand the conditions that are needed to support desired uses, agricultural production, native species, and essential ecosystem functions; and develop appropriate actions to enhance the watershed now that existing conditions will soon reflect the post-flood recovery environment. Boulder County supports this application and encourages the Colorado Water Conservation Board to fully fund it.

Sincerely,


Deb Gardner
Chair, Board of County Commissioners

Cindy Domenico County Commissioner Deb Gardner County Commissioner Elise Jones County Commissioner

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 471 • Boulder, Colorado 80306 • www.bouldercounty.org • commissioners@bouldercounty.org



November 1, 2017

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain & Left Hand Stream Management Plan Grant Application

Dear Mr. Sturm,

The Saint Vrain Creek Coalition (SVCC) is writing in support of the St. Vrain & Left Hand Stream Management Plan grant application submitted by the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program.

The SVCC is a locally driven, non-governmental, non-regulatory community-based organization whose mission is to implement the Saint Vrain Creek Master Plan and pursue recovery from flood impacts, resiliency to natural hazards, and protection of the natural character and multiple uses of the Saint Vrain watershed, through broad stakeholder engagement and collaboration. The SVCC is comprised of many partners, including local governmental entities, non-profits, and private citizens and landowners.

The St. Vrain Watershed and Left Hand watersheds are home to a large Front Range population that depends on a wide range of water uses for residents, agriculture, businesses, recreation, and the environment. As the population grows and demands on the multiple uses of water increase, the development of a St. Vrain and Left Hand Stream Management Plan is crucial for guiding efforts to effectively make the most out of every drop of water to balance these needs.

In partnership with the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, the Saint Vrain Creek Coalition proposes that this Stream Management Plan evaluates flow and management with recreational needs and environmental functions so that recommendations can be made for balanced water use. The input and engagement of diverse stakeholders in this process are critical to the ability to find a solution because the a "smart use" of water is not just based on science, it must also factor in the community's social values. This project will set the foundation for next-step efforts for the implementation of a stream management plan that garners public support for necessary changes in current water use to meet the high demands of future needs while preserving important shared values in our watershed.

The Saint Vrain Creek Coalition believes that a Stream Management Plan is vital to the health and future of our watershed. We strongly encourage the CWCB to fully fund the request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cecily Mui".

Cecily Mui
Watershed Coordinator

PO Box 706, Longmont, Colorado, 80502 | 303-774-4314 | office@saintvraincreekcoalition.org